

***Africanogyrus* nom. n., a replacement name for the preoccupied snail genus *Afrogyrus* Brown & Mandahl-Barth, 1973 (Gastropoda: Planorbidae)**

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ABSTRACT

A junior homonym was detected amongst freshwater snails genera and the following replacement name is proposed: *Africanogyrus* nom. n. for *Afrogyrus* Brown & Mandahl-Barth, 1973 [non *Afrogyrus* Brinck, 1955]. Accordingly, new combinations are herein proposed for the species currently included in this genus: *Africanogyrus coretus* (de Blainville, 1826), comb. n.; *A. crassilabrum* (Morelet, 1860), comb. n.; *A. rodriguezensis* (Crosse, 1873), comb. n.; and *A. starmuehlneri* (Brown, 1980), comb. n.

KEY WORDS: Mollusca, Planorbidae, Afrotropical, homonymy, replacement name.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the present note is to bring the taxonomy of Gastropoda into accordance with the requirements of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (ICZN 1999). In an effort to reduce the number of homonyms in Planorbidae, we found a genus name, which had been previously published for another taxon, making it a junior homonym. In accordance with Article 60 (ICZN 1999), we propose a substitute name for this genus.

TAXONOMY

Family Planorbidae Rafinesque, 1815

Genus ***Africanogyrus*** nom. n.

Afrogyrus Brown & Mandahl-Barth, 1973: 290 (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Pulmonata: Basommatophora: Planorbidae) [non *Afrogyrus* Brinck, 1955: 51 (Insecta: Coleoptera: Adepaga: Gyrinidae)].

Etymology: From Africa and the ending -gyrus, derived from the genus name *Afrogyrus*.

Remarks on nomenclatural change: The name *Afrogyrus* Brown & Mandahl-Barth, 1973 was established for the African freshwater snail genus with the type species *Planorbis coretus* de Blainville, 1826 (Gastropoda). *Afrogyrus* Brown & Mandahl-Barth, 1973 is still used as a valid genus name in the family Planorbidae (e.g. Brown 1980, 1994, 1996, 2001). Currently, this genus includes four species: African *Afrogyrus coretus* (de Blainville, 1826), *A. crassilabrum* (Morelet, 1860) and *A. starmuehlneri* Brown, 1980 from Madagascar, and *A. rodriguezensis* (Crosse, 1873) from Mauritius (Rodrigues I.).

Nevertheless the name *Afrogyrus* is already preoccupied. Brinck (1955) established a whirligig beetle subgenus *Afrogyrus* (with the type species *Gyrinus caffer* Aubé, 1838) in the genus *Aulonogyrus* Motschulsky, 1853 (Coleoptera: Gyrinidae). This is also still used as a valid genus name in Gyrinidae (e.g. Löbl & Smetana 2003).

Thus, the name *Afrogyrus* Brown & Mandahl-Barth, 1973 is a junior homonym of the name *Afrogyrus* Brinck, 1955. In accordance with Article 60 (ICZN 1999), we

propose the name *Africanogyrus* as a replacement name for *Afrogyrus* Brown & Mandahl-Barth, 1973 [non *Afrogyrus* Brinck, 1955].

Species included: *Africanogyrus coretus* (de Blainville, 1826), **comb. n.**; *Africanogyrus crassilabrum* (Morelet, 1860), **comb. n.**; *Africanogyrus rodriguezensis* (Crosse, 1873), **comb. n.**; and *Africanogyrus starmuehlneri* (Brown, 1980), **comb. n.**

Note: The full synonymy for the above species is given by Brown (1994).

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